Extraction of Gold in Karnataka by Foreign Companies

589. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a memorandum of understanding with some foreign companies to extract gold in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the places where gold deposite have been found in the State; and

(d) the quantity of gold proposed to be extracted by foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Government have not signed any memorandum of understanding with a foreign company for extraction of gold in Karnataka. However, Hindustan Zinc Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding with M/s. Niugini Mining Ltd (NML), Australia for setting up a joint venture to identify prospective gold resources in India.

(c) Gold deposit have been identied at Ajjanahalli in Tumkur District and Kempinkota in Hassan District of Karnataka.

(d) In view of answer to (a) and (b), this does not arise.

Import of Mettalurigal Coke

590. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mettalurigal coke for zinc plants has been imported despite its availability in abundance in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Government has constituted an enquiry committee to examine the matter of import of metalurigal coke by Hindustan Zinc Limited. Committee's report is awaited.

Demand of Aluminium

591 SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate demand of Aluminium in the country by 2000 AD and the projections made till then;

(b) whether there is a need to increase the production of aluminium during this period;

(c) if so, the proposal mooted by Government in that regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The Working Group on Aluminium etc. set up by the Government in the context of 8th Five Year Plan assessed the demand of Aluminium metal as 8.27 lakhs metric tonnes by the year 2000AD. The existing installed capacity for production of primary aluminium in the country at present is 6.35 lakhs tonnes per annum.

(b) to (d) Some of the primary producers plan to expand their existing capacities. In order to encourage production of Aluminium in the private sector Government have exempted Aluminium Industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing. Besides this, with a view to make production of Aluminium more attractive, Government have reduced excise duty on the metal and extended MODVAT. Aluminium industry has been also listed as one of the industries where automatic approval of foreign equity upto 51 per cent is available to encourage foreign investment in this sector.